

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19821

VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, TECH, ENRG, UR
SUBJECT: PROGRESS AT THE "ATOMMASH" REACTOR PLANT

REF: MOSCOW A-116

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA (SR)
AUGUST 16 CARRIES A FRONT PAGE STORY ON PROGRESS AT
THE "ATOMMASH"
FACTORY IN VOLGODONSK. THE ARTICLE
REPORTS THAT PRODUCTION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRST
ONE GIGAWATT DONSKOY NUCLEAR REACTOR HAS JUST BEGUN -
FIVE MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. IZVESTIYA AUGUST 16
CARRIES A SHORTER PAGE THREE STORY ON THE SAME
SUBJECT. IZVESTIYA REPORTS THE PLANT IS ONLY FOUR
MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

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2. THE SR ARTICLE ADDS THAT 100,000 SQUARE METERS
OF FLOOR SPACE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE INSTALLATION
OF EQUIPMENT IN DECEMBER 1977 - SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF
SCHEDULE - AND THAT SINCE DECEMBER TWO POWERFUL
LATHES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. THIS HAS PERMITTED WORK
TO BEGIN ON THE FIRST VESSEL (OBECHAYKA) OF THE FUTURE
REACTOR. IZVESTIYA DESCRIBES THE INITIAL COMPONENT

WORKED ON BY THE LATHE IN MORE DETAIL. FOUR SUCH COMPONENTS - EACH A RING SIX METERS IN DIAMETER - AND WEIGHING 35 TONS WILL CONNECT THE PARTS OF THE FUTURE REACTOR.

3. IN THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF ATOMMASH, V. G. PERSHIN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF POWER MACHINE BUILDING, IS QUOTED ON FUTURE PLANS: "BY THE END OF THE YEAR WE EXPECT TO CONCLUDE THE FIRST STEP IN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE STEAM GENERATOR AND VESSEL OF THE FUTURE REACTOR." PERSHIN GOES INTO MORE DETAIL IN THE SR ARTICLE: "IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER WELDING, THERMAL, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WILL GRADUALLY BE INCLUDED IN OUR WORK. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TURN OUT THE FIRST COMPLETED STEAM GENERATOR IN NOVEMBER 1980 INSTEAD OF MID-1981, AND THE FIRST REACTOR AT THE BEGINNING OF 1981." END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THESE PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETING THE FIRST REACTOR HAS BEEN SPEEDED UP SEVERAL MONTHS. AS WITH ALL SOVIET CLAIMS REGARDING FUTURE COMPLETIONS IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE ACCELERATED SCHEDULE CAN ACTUALLY BE MET AND WHAT REAL CAPACITY WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY 1981. THESE REPORTS CONFLICT WITH PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT THE VOLGODONSK PLANT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE (REPAIR). END CONFIDENTIAL.TOON

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